

**HOLY TAXIARHAI and ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20, 2021**

Commencement of Meeting: The Parish Council meeting began at 7:07 pm with prayers being led by Father Dean via Zoom. Father George is also present.

Attendance: N Andrews, T Bournias, B Bozikis, P Giannopoulos, G Giolas, G Houpis, K Ioannou, T Kanelos, E Kiriazopoulos, R Kozlowski, D Loomos, N Megremis, A Prekas, T Rizos, T Sikoral, T Zavos

Absent: C Agalliu, A Demeros, N Gianaris, T Karabatsos, L Konstantellos, A Koutsikos, M Pontikes

Parish Council Elections not ratified as of January 20, 2021. A Prekas and G Houpis are non-voting attendees

President's Remarks: Led by R Kozlowski. Thank you for joining. The Parish Council Election has not yet been ratified, therefore previous Parish Council members may vote on motions only.

Minutes: Led by K Ioannou. Corrected November 2020 Parish Council minutes and December 2020 Parish Council minutes sent to Parish Council by email, reviewed.

Motion: To approve the Parish Council November 2020 corrected minutes, G Giolas / 2nd N Andrews **Vote: 11-0-1 Pass, Unanimously**

Motion: To approve the Parish Council December 2020 reviewed minutes, G Giolas / 2nd T Sikoral. **Vote: 11-0-1 Pass, Unanimously**

Treasurer's Report: Led by T Sikoral. November 2020 Financial statement reviewed, previously sent by email to Parish Council. Discussion: The first installment of the PPP loan of \$144,804 was approved and forgiven. The 2nd installment of the PPP loan (\$144,804) should also be forgiven in the near future. It is not showing as a line item of income until the loan is forgiven. Other: Agape Ministry donation from the Men's Event transfer not yet been recorded (approx. \$5,000). The \$15,000 allocation for the Schools to be reflected in the January statement.

Motion: To accept the November 2020 Parish Council Financials: T Kanelos / 2nd E Kiriazopoulos. **Vote: 13-0-0 Pass, Unanimously**

Parish Handbook: Led by T Zavos. Going forward, any minor changes made to the handbook will be renamed in increasing incremental versions. For example, the current version of the handbook is 1.0, and minor revisions will become versions 1.1, 1.2, and so forth. These minor changes to occur within the Handbook Subcommittee. Any major changes will come back to the Parish Council for approval, and will be renamed numerically accordingly (2.0, 3.0, etc). The handbook was printed and distributed to the office staff and Saturday school teachers so far. The reception was positive. One concern was the adjustment of PTO, specifically for the Office staff. If more than 5 sick days are used, the employee would then be forced to use PTO days. It was decided that if additional sick days are needed, exceptions can be brought up to the Parish Council for review and approval. T Zavos to follow up and explain this to employees.

Phase III: Led by P Giannopoulos. The stage has been installed on the second floor. Curtains and handrails to come next week. The basketball court is about 80% finished. The part that remains incomplete is where the bleachers will be installed. Project is still within budget. May need approximately \$100,000 loan, but it may be closer to \$50,000, as pledges are being fulfilled. The overall project is completed much more advanced than previously thought. Looking to build the storage rooms in the basement for: 1) Church; 2) Philoptochos; 3) Ministries; 4) Schools. Kitchen is 75% complete. Aiming to complete the building with only 5% financing of the overall project. Wiring / electrical installations to be completed, along with purchasing any additional equipment that may be needed, for final bank draw out of Phase III account. Suggestion of using PPP loan from the government, and not ask for forgiveness - may only be 1% interest. Other: Items by the lot entrance, including miscellaneous signs and bricks, to be temporarily placed in outdoor storage (shed). D Loomos to provide tarp to cover in the meantime. Obtaining the occupancy permit, is an on-going process. If it rains more than 9", the water runoff goes into the neighbor's lot to the north. A berm will have to be installed on the northside of the premises to manage the runoff. **Motion:** To spend up to \$75,000 for completion of storage, kitchen, and any other equipment that will be needed for the new building. G Giolas / 2nd D Loomos. **Vote: 12-0-0 Pass, Unanimously.**

Virtual Gala: Led by R Kozlowski. Lambro is working with G Bepis to host Virtual Gala. Asking for an extension of 3-4 weeks, in order to give more time for assembling the ad book and silent auction items. There may also be a 50-50 raffle ticket drawing. The format may include having food delivered to the church or to the home. Lent starts March 15th. Currently working with the same banquet hall that organized St John's Virtual Gala.

Stewardship: Led by G Giolas. There was a stewardship meeting last week, thank you to PC members, A Prekas, K Ioannou and N Megremis for joining. As of 12/31/2020, 595 families pledged \$389,313 (\$654 per family). This is the highest amount collected since 2015. We are still waiting for final numbers for 2020 Stewardship, but overall down about 50 families, reasoning may be due to pandemic restrictions, no athletics, limited school in-class instruction, delayed or less sacraments. This time last year (2020), we had 109 families pledge \$86,144 (\$790 per family). As of 1/20/2021, 164 families pledged \$130,000 (\$793 per family). The Stewardship forms have been mailed out and are also available online. The first Stewardship Video will be released hopefully in the next week. The Parish Survey of 6 questions was emailed out and also included in weekly email; please take the time to answer questions. The survey will run through the end of February.

New Facility: Led by D Loomos. The committee is working on a list, to have something in place but waiting on Occupancy permit to go through.

Agape Ministry: Led by T Kanelos. Distributed approximately 27-29 tons of food to the community over a 10 month period. Distribution occurs once weekly on Thursdays from 3-4pm in front of the Church and New Facility. One donor from a grocery store has been donating in bulk a different item each week. Small and large donations earmarked for the Agape Ministry have helped the ministry continue its efforts; \$5,000 was donated through the Men's Event. Items offered have changed a little bit to offer more variety (protein bars, hot cocoa, etc). Other: Volunteering at Bessie's Table continued during Covid. Food is cooked, delivered and distributed to people at the door. About \$110 -\$150 feeds about 100 people.

Meals on Wheels & Project Hope: Led by A Prekas. Meals on Wheels (MoW): Currently delivering food to 14 families, one Saturday a month. Recently delivered 36 meals. One donor also gifted Christmas gifts for families with kids. Next MoW is 2/20/2021. Project Hope collects Care kits, Covid kits, and Winter kits, with specified items (toothbrush, hand sanitizer, etc). Some people have donated bulk single items. Approximately 3 to 5 totes are collected each month, approximately 700 kits since the start of the pandemic. Feedback has been positive, and St Haralambos has been the only parish in the Metropolis that has consistently distributed kits every month. Next kit drop-off date for Project Hope is 2/6/2021.

Building & Grounds: Led by R Kozlowski. In contact with M Pontikes regarding lighting around the church. Locking mechanism of one of the Church doors appears to be working fine. T Karabatsos to follow up. D Kontos patched up holes in the hallway outside the office, and repainted. He would like to repaint the Narthex of the Church (without compensation). Outlet where the I-Pad Kiosk is mounted, is not working. The cord was previously plugged in around the corner. Door closer at the top of the door leading from the breezeway to the Narthex needs to be replaced. Keep doors closed after high foot traffic subsides. Heated sidewalk heater is turned on when colder, turned off by Andy. When entering the Office after hours, please turn the alarm back on when leaving. Janitorial service spent a good amount of time shoveling; the snow blower needs to be located for future use. Feedback of the janitorial service has been positive.

For the Good of the Parish: Parish email has been transitioned from the old system (iemail.goarch.org) to outlook, at no cost for a not-for-profit organization. G Houpis created an account with email names. It requires Microsoft Authenticator for a 2 - way security. It is not recommended to forward to a separate account. We are allowed to have One Drive and One Team set up as groups. It is the best way to communicate documents, and streamlines processes. Thank you to those that have already done this. Please schedule a time to get in touch with G Houpis to set up church email through Outlook. At the beginning of the month, the internet and phones were down due to lost power. G Houpis to look into having a battery backup for PCs and/or phones (UPS power supply for example).

Priest's Remarks: None.

Motion to Adjourn: E Kiriazopoulos / 2nd T Rizos **Vote: Pass, Unanimously.**

Closing Prayers led by Fr Dean at 9:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Krystal Ioannou,

Recording Secretary